

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES FROM TOBAGO.

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Nothing approaching a complete list of the species of the lower land vertebrates from Tobago has appeared. There are a number of records from that island scattered through the pages of Boulenger's Catalogues of Snakes and Lizards in the British Museum. In August, 1879, Cope published a short list in his "Eleventh Contribution to the Herpetology of Tropical America" * and named the local *Ameiva*. This name *tobaganus* (sic) evidently escaped Boulenger when he was writing the Catalogue of Lizards, and small wonder—for it was not conspicuously published.

These notes are based upon a collection made by Dr. H. L. Clark of the Museum of Comparative Zoology while a member of the Carnegie Institution Expedition to Tobago and his series is supplemented by a fine lot obtained from Mr. Broadway, in charge of the Botanical Gardens at Scarborough, Tobago.

A glance at the list will show that the fauna is more extensive than one might expect from the small size of the island and the close relationship to that of Trinidad, so well known, is emphasized.

Cope recorded two species not in either the Clark or Broadway collection. They are the Fer-de-Lance (*Lachesis lanceolatus*) and the Piping Tree frog (*Eleutherodactylus martinicensis*). Specimens of the latter would be very interesting as they would probably not be referable to *martinicensis*.

* Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc., 1879, p. 276-277.

Eupemphix trinitatis Boulenger.

I have identified with this peculiar species a single frog which Doctor Clark brought from Milford Bay. It agrees fairly well with Boulenger's description (Ann. Mag. N. H. [6], 3, 1889, p. 307), but I confess I would like to compare it with topotypes from Trinidad. Unfortunately the creature has so far failed to turn up in any of the collections which have been made in Trinidad by Thaxter, Rorer and others. J. H. Hart, who discovered it in the Botanical Gardens at Port of Spain, wrote Boulenger that it was only found when half drowned in a fountain or similar receptacle of water to which it had repaired to spawn but from which it could not escape.

It is, of course, new to the fauna of Tobago, and is one of the most interesting finds which Clark made.

Bufo marinus (Linne).

Abundant throughout the island as would be expected. Several preserved from Milford Bay.

Hyla crepitans Wied.

A single very large adult from Milford Bay, April, 1916. The species is common in Trinidad but has not appeared in previous collections from Tobago so far as I am aware.

Iguana iguana (Linne).

Under the more recent name of *I. tuberculata* Laur., this species has been reported from Tobago by Boulenger, Ludlam coll. There are two adults in the collection made by Clark at Milford Bay.

Anolis trossulus Garman.

A single specimen of this species was sent to the Museum from Tobago by Mr. J. B. Rorer of Trinidad several years ago. He wrote that it was not uncommon. Clark's collection contains a number of additional examples. A comparison with the types of *trossulus* fails to reveal any difference between the series from the two islands. It is really surprising to find this *Anolis*, hitherto thought to be confined to Grenada, abundant upon Tobago. Its presence only serves to emphasize the really transitional character of the fauna of these lower islands between St. Vincent and Venezuela. St. Vincent typically Antillean, Grenada less markedly so, while Tobago and Trinidad are far more continental in character than Antillean.

This is doubtless the species which Cope recorded from Tobago as *Anolis alligator* D. & B.

Polychrus marmoratus (Linne).

A single specimen brought alive to Doctor Clark by a negro boy at Milford Bay. Clark tells me that this example, which is excellently preserved

served, is the only one of the species which he saw upon the island. It has not been previously recorded from Tobago.

Tupinambis nigropunctatus Spix.

A single adult example from Milford Bay collected by Dr. H. L. Clark. This lizard is a real surprise. It is noteworthy to find that this large, voracious terrestrial lizard has apparently never before been taken upon Tobago.

Ameiva tobagana (Cope).

When discussing this species in our Revision of the Genus *Ameiva* (Bull. M. C. Z., 59, 1915, p. 458), Mr. Noble and I had no specimens before us for examination. Doctor Clark's material secured at Milford Bay, southwestern Tobago, however, provides a really fine series of this distinct form. Young, half grown and adults are represented.

Cnemidophorus lemniscatus (Daudin).

A finely preserved large series from Milford Bay. It is not strange that this species is to be found upon Tobago as it occurs upon Trinidad and the Venezuelan Leeward Islands as well as widely spread upon the mainland. The males and females of the suite in hand show the remarkable dichromatism which is so conspicuous and so stable.

Mabuya aenea Gray.

Two scincs which may be referred to this species provisionally, came here with the Broadway suite. Garman has considered the slippery-backs from St. Vincent, Grenada and Trinidad distinct from *M. aurata* (Schneider) of the mainland. The Tobago examples may well rest thus also until accumulated material makes possible a final working-out of their status. This scinc appears also to be new to Tobago.

Constrictor constrictor (Linne).

The dried skin of a large adult was among the material secured from Mr. Broadway of Scarborough. Specimens from Tobago are reported by Boulenger to be in the British Museum.

Epicrates cenchria (Linne).

Two boas which evidently belong to some race of this species are not provided with a subspecific name as material is not at hand for a satisfactory study of the species. Both of the examples before me came from Milford Bay. I can not find that this boa has been previously noted upon Tobago.

Spilotes pullatus (Linne).

A large serpent to which this name may well be applied provisionally was among those sent by Mr. Broadway. It had been known from Trinidad but apparently not from Tobago.

Drymarchon corais (Boie).

Doctor Clark secured a somewhat mangled but perfectly identifiable adult of this huge snake. It is fully adult. Like the preceding it had been reported from Trinidad but not Tobago.

Drymobius boddaerti (Sentzen).

Two specimens in Broadway's collection showing the bilineata (Jan) type of coloration. It was recorded from Tobago by Cope from F. A. Ober's collection.

Lemiadophis melanotus (Shaw).

A single adult from Scarborough, Broadway collector. Previously recorded from Tobago as having been in the Ludlam collection in the British Museum.

Leptophis liocercus (Wied).

Three adults in the Broadway collection and three from Milford Bay taken by Clark. Boulenger has already recorded this snake from Tobago in the British Museum Catalogue (Sn. 2, 1894, p. 114) from the collection of A. Ludlam, Esq.

Atractus trilineatus Wagler.

Two examples collected by Mr. Broadway. This little snake is very abundant in Trinidad, appearing in almost every collection. Mole and Urich (*Jour. Trin. Field Nat. Club.*, 2, 3, 1894, p. 84) say "This is the common little snake found under stones and rubbish in gardens in Port of Spain." Apparently, however, it has not been found hitherto in Tobago.

Clelia cloelia (Daudin).

This snake, which was certainly to have been expected to occur upon Tobago, is represented by a large adult from Milford Bay and five others in the Broadway collection made at Scarborough.

Petalognathus nebulatus (Linne).

Two well preserved adults in the Broadway collection from Scarborough. Already recorded from Tobago by Boulenger, collection of L. Ludlam, Esq. (*Cat. Sn. B. M.* 2, 1894, p. 293).

Leptodeira annulata (Linne).

One specimen, W. E. Broadway, collector. Apparently new to Tobago but well known from Trinidad and northern and central South America.

Oxybelis acuminatus Wied.

A single example in the collection made by W. E. Broadway, and another from Milford Bay in Clark's series. While very widely distributed and common throughout a large part of Tropical America, this seems to be the first notice of its appearance in Tobago.